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MISS LE MY EXPLAINS HER LETTER TO POST

Saigon, NGUOI VIET TU DO, in Vietnamese, May 13, 1958--S

(Text) The case of actress Trang Thien Kim (Miss Le My--Ed.) who sent an eleven-question letter to the Washington POST once stirred up public opinion in the United States as well as in Vietnam. To remove our readers' concern, we asked Miss Trang Thien Kim to answer our eleven questions.

Question: What were the motives and purposes for your sending your letter to the United States?

Answer: I wanted to try to understand Americans and, conversely, to let Americans understand a Vietnamese who has thought well of them. I hoped that after I sent this letter, Americans would seek to better understand the way of life, aspirations, and thinking of the Vietnamese people who are known for their latent feelings--unlike the Europeans who used to exaggerately give vent to their feelings--to avoid misunderstandings in everyday life.

Question: Why did you address your letter to the Washington POST?

Answer: I did not intend to address my letter to any newspaper in the United States, but, being told that the publisher of the Washington POST is a man of good will, I wanted to address it to him in the hope that my questions would be answered personally. Besides, I did not expect him to "exploit" and "trumpet" this affair.

Question: Are you satisfied with the answers from Americans?

Answer: Beyond my expectations. I now realize that Americans wish to promote an understanding between our peoples.

Question: In addition to the answers appearing in the Washington POST, did you receive any other letters from the United States?

Answer: Over 400 letters from readers of the Washington POST reached me after the publication of my letter.

Question: It was rumored that certain persons stood behind you pulling strings. Is that correct?

Answer: Certainly not! Anyone who knows me personally would realize that I wrote the letter myself. Though still young, I have had the opportunity to make friends with Americans, French, and Vietnamese. I like to read books and study anything which increases my knowledge. I try my best to understand everything.

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Question: Did you intend to get publicity for your movie career?

Answer: I have never had this intention. This affair is not connected with my profession.

Question: Did your eleven questions represent your own concern or that of a number of persons?

Answer: They probably represent the concern of many people because, like me, they also want to understand Americans.

Question: Have you been invited to visit the United States? If so, did you accept this invitation?"

Answer: Yes, I have. I am willing to visit that country. I will strive to make the two peoples understand each other.

Question: Do you think that your eleven questions will have an effect on the relations between the United States and the Republic of Vietnam?

Answer: I expect that there will be a good effect on this relationship.

Question: Do you think that the communists will take advantage of these questions to launch anti-American propaganda and slander the Republic of Vietnam?

Answer: I have never thought of this.

Question: What is your final opinion on this affair?

Answer: I hope to see the understanding between Americans and Vietnamese improve in the future, thus eliminating all misunderstandings and superiority and inferiority complexes.

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PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY--Nguyen Huu Chuu, secretary of state of the Vietnamese presidential office, has officially resigned his post. During a cabinet meeting it was decided to name Nguyen Dinh Thuan, director of cabinet at the Department of National Defense, as the new presidential secretary. (Cholon, YUAN TUNG JIH PAO, Chinese, May 8, 1958--S)

CAMBODIAN SOLDIERS--On Apr. 27, about 20 armed Cambodian soldiers pursued a group of six Cambodians who were taking their cattle to Vietnamese territroy to sell them. When the soldiers crossed the border and arrived in Ha Tien District, they opened fire on the Cambodian smugglers. One of the shots hit a Vietnamese peasant. The Cambodian soldiers retreated to the other side of the border. (Saigon, THOI CUOC, May 8, 1958--S)

REBELS TO SURRENDER--It has been learned that Colonel Nguyen Minh Tam of the Dan Xa rebels operating in the western [illegible] render today to the [illegible] (Saigon, CACH MANG QUOC GIA, May 8, 1958--S)

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